

LESSONS LEARNED

GENDER + NATURAL RESOURCES

Men and women interact with the environment in different ways and therefore have separate knowledge, needs, and priorities in environmental conservation. Many of Conservation International's field programs are working to effectively understand and respond to these differences within projects, producing important lessons that help to achieve sound, just, and sustainable conservation outcomes.



1

Men's and women's different roles, uses and needs are often not well integrated into conservation programming.

In coastal communities in Timor-Leste and Madagascar, men are almost exclusively responsible for fishing, while women are engaged in near-shore gleaning activities. Conservation initiatives—particularly those which rely on community ownership and management—must understand and respond to those differences in order to ensure sustainable and equitable outcomes.

2

Direct participation and decision-making in conservation efforts result in stronger and more equitable outcomes.

In the villages within Timor-Leste's Nino Konis Santana National Park, women are directly involved in conservation projects, such as in sea turtle habitat protection. While women and men have equal access to natural resources, the men have greater control over resource management and decision making. Implementing gender-inclusive activities linked to conservation results in better stakeholder engagement and social outcomes.

3

Men play a key role in supporting equitable participation and decision-making.

In indigenous communities in the Colombian Amazon and in the Palawan Islands of the Philippines, male village leaders encourage women's involvement in conservation activities. The sustainability of conservation initiatives depends on ensuring that all stakeholders—including both men and women—are directly involved in conservation programs and decisionmaking.

4

Many of the barriers that prevent women's full and effective participation and decision-making are universal.

Around the world, women are often not able to fully participate in conservation efforts due to social and cultural constraints such as household responsibilities, language or education barriers, lack of self-confidence and cultural norms that do not support equality. Practitioners must be aware of these barriers and collaboratively develop locally-appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate barriers, allowing women to more effectively participate.

5

You do not need to be a "gender expert" to integrate gender into conservation and environmental programming.

Conservation International has developed simple guidelines for conservation practitioners to better recognize, understand, and integrate gender considerations into community-based conservation and environmental projects and programs.

GLOBAL GENDER & CONSERVATION PROJECTS

CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



COLOMBIA

In the southern Amazon rainforest region, CI worked with indigenous communities to better understand the roles of men and women throughout the implementation of conservation agreements.



MADAGASCAR

In villages throughout a southeastern forest corridor, CI worked with communities to examine the barriers that prevent women from participating in conservation activities and forest management groups.



PHILIPPINES

In the Palawan Islands, CI examined how the establishment of a new protected area impacted women and men, and provided recommendations for better integrating gender considerations into future management planning.



GUYANA

For communities facing threats to sustainable development from urbanization, migration and expanding infrastructure, a project in the Rupununi region focused on how indigenous men, women and youth can interact with each other and the environment for improved conservation outcomes.



TIMOR-LESTE

In the Nino Konis Santana National Park, CI field staff explored the gender dynamics of natural resource use and management within the country's first community network of marine protected areas and identified areas to better engage women in conservation initiatives.



Green indicates completed or ongoing CI gender integration grant projects

For more information, visit conservation.org/gender